

LIVERIES AND UNIFORMS

LONDON, March 3.—The first drawing of the season, which as a rule takes place bitterly cold and otherwise inclement weather was on Tuesday favored by brilliant sun and almost springlike softness of temperature. The gigantic bouquets of faded flowers, the stinking stones, and the mud through the carriage windows were no longer the best advantage by the countless spectators patiently gathered near the approach to Buckingham Palace, who cheered the liverymen and the liveries and trappings of a race.

This apparently unimportant question of liveries has suddenly become a matter of national importance, and the proposed and stable-tax about to be imposed on the French; a tax which will be felt by the non-French residents of all nations who are settled in Paris. It will be, however, what difficult to decide with nicety and exactness on the exact import of the term "liveries," the costume of the domestic servants, the members of household garrons of large shops, and the errand boys. Is it meant to strike only at the wealthier aristocratic portion of the community? Or domestic servants who wear their livery duty haste to doff it the moment they are in their private capacity, wearing plain colored frock-coats and matted hair, as the French, too, black and white, as well as the footman, coachman, or "chasseur" in uniform.

The word "liverie," anglicised into "livery," originated in France at the now remote time when the King presented costly garments to the officers of his court the day before Christmas, and when this gift was styled "liveries." The word was first used in England when made with an afterthought, as in the case of St. Louis, who gave the garments on Christmas eve, and the recipients finding themselves enrolled as crusaders.

In the tournaments the heralds and the men-at-arms wore the coats of arms of their lords, and the armorial bearings were without the prefatory term of "robe" but one of habitual use for the distinctive costume or parts of costume indicating an acknowledged condition of service. Even the knight who slung across his armor the scarf of his lord was said to bear her livery.

colored clothes were given to domestic servants, the shades matching the chief emblems of their masters' escutcheons, and under XIV., who like Napoleon I. decreed on such matters, ruffs and regulations were laid down the wearers and ornaments of liveries. And the French nobles, who had formerly worn galleons or gold lace on their coats, these transferred to the lackeys, and the men adopted the flowered broadades and embroidered silks only. These galleons were purposely with the entire coat of arms less frequently repeated of the family to which the wearer belonged, and the French nobles, sovereigns, ambassadors, and poets they placed on every seam of the coats; henceforth French locution to express ostentatious wealth: "Galonné sur toutes les coutures." In England the use of the liverly coat of arms was not so common, which is really the "habit à l'Anglaise" is more generally adopted in France.

There are three series of liveries, the gala, the semi-state, and the petite tenue, gala. The first implies the square collar, old-fashioned coat, the middle one, the family heraldic colors, the *auk* horse, but

shoes, powdered wig, and three-coated the semi-stable consists of a coat with rows of silver and crested buttons, with talls, knee breeches, silk stockings, and buckled shoes; the ordinary liveries are of black, with a red collar, cuffs, and coat, but with the trousers are worn, an ordinary high hat out of doors.

The British court has three distinct liveries the finest is red, with armorial galloons, waistcoats and breeches; the second, red breeches and waistcoats, and black jackets; and the third, in black, with aiguillettes ornamented with the royal arms. The court uniforms of Queen Victoria are remarkable for their elegant simplicity, as compared with the garish splendor of the civic authorities; the almost equally magnificent gorgeousness of the uniforms of the Russian nobles.

The Prussian court has but one liverie "grand tenue"—blue coat, stand-up collar, breeches, and gold-laced hat.

In Spain the gala suits are blue, heavily lined with buff; in Russia green and red; and in England black and white. The cut differs but slightly. It is doubtless the custom of the nobles of some of the German, Austrian or Russian. The liveries of this country is almost a uniform, and is termed

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lives chiefly in the color of the breeches and waistcoats as well as in the heraldic buttons and the color of the hair. Some of the nobles retained the red coats, and there is even one example of a yellowone in the house of Talbot-Perigord. Among the ambitious at the Court of Montebello—now mentioned as probable successor of Mr. Waddington at the court of St. James's—has green livery, and the Duke of Salaparuta, however, has chosen Duffel night blue ones, faced with yellow waistcoats of the latter color.

Liveries of uncommon and unheraldic shades are more common in England than on the Continent. The Blounts, for instance, dress their servants in blue, and the Duke of Devonshire's may be seen in the parks a well-known livery of violet with amaranthine facings; rather startling combination. However, the rule, good form and good taste are on the side of simplicity, and the habitual livery in the best English houses is a coal or dark blue, with buff or buff-colored waistcoats and hats, and the dress white tie. The long white tie is worn with a pin is only allowable to the coachman and the footman who rides on the box. The butler in England permits himself to be permitted to indulge in a license which is

heard of abroad, it appears that the
the most common and the most
his costume being emphatically a
this one abroad this is never
either this functionality does not show, or
invariably in a full-dress suit. On great oc-
sions and in some aristocratic houses the
exchanged for the black coat "à la française."
the silk cravats, and the cravats
sometimes even a slender cor-
sheathed in black. The condeger, or
porter, on gala days wears a rich, he-
gallooned uniform, shoes, and silk hose
like buckled hat worn straight across the
head (on *balafin*), and he carries a tall, man-
silver-headed cane. For gentlemen and
the dress is a black frock coat, and
almost entirely superseded by the huged
tippets and long fur cuffs reaching nearly
the knees. There have been occasions
cost large sums of money.

The greatest point of resemblance between
the *de l'étranger* and the *de l'étranger*
de l'étranger, whence they derive their name
that they are provided by the masters, as